(c) National Development Council (NDC) accords special status to the States as per the following guidelines:

- Strategic location on the border with neighbouring countries;
- Hilly terrains;
- Inadequate economic and Social infrastruture;
- Predominantly large tribal population; and
- Limited and weak resource base compared to development needs.

Accordingly the funding pattern for the Special Category States has been adopted under APDRP.

Dual Citizenship to NRIs

*109. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide dual citizenship to Non-Resident Indians residing abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRI PRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The Government of India has introduced Registration of Overseas Indian Citizenship to People of Indian Origin (PIO) who are citizens of one of the sixteen specified countries. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2003, Citizenship (second Amendment) Rules 2004 and Citizenship (Thrid Amendment) Rules, 2004 have been notified to operationalize the scheme.

Participation of STs in Army, Navy and Air Force

*110. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the participation rate of Scheduled Tribes in Army, Navy and Air Force is poor;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.